ACCOUNT

OF THE

MANAGEMENT

OF THE

POOR IN HAMBURGH,

SINCE THE YEAR 1788.

IN

A LETTER

TO

SOME FRIENDS OF THE POOR IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Il faut rendre meilleur le pauvre qu'on ſoulage :
C'eſt l'effet du travail.

St LAMBERT, *Saiſons.*

EDINBURGH:

1795.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

ACCOUNT

OF THE

INSTITUTIONS AT HAMBURGH,

FOR THE

EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT

OF

THE POOR.

DURING a reſidence of ſixteen months in this happy Iſland, where a long enjoyed ſecurity of perſon and property has called forth, in all ranks, the incalculable powers of human induſtry, and where domeſtic comfort rewards every exertion, from the philoſopher's ſtudy down to the labourer's thatch; ſuch a maſs of powers produced, and of happineſs enjoyed, ſtrongly attracted all my attention. I admired the daily wonders of induſtry, the animated exertions of public ſpirit, and that unbounded active benevolence, become ſo habitual amongſt you, that hardly you your-

ſelves are conſcious of its extent. It was to each of you, my reſpectable Friends, that I have been obliged individually for that information I was ſo forcibly led to deſire: It was you that conducted me to your Hoſpitals, Workhouſes, Magdalen-houſes, your new Priſons, and all thoſe numerous monuments of Britiſh ſenſibility.

In our converſation on theſe ſubjects, I often mentioned the ſucceſs our endeavours in Hamburgh had met with, in ſuppreſſing beggary, encouraging induſtry, reſtoring health, and promoting morality, among a numerous claſs of poor.

You ſeemed all to think, that in England ſome conſequences of the exiſting poor-laws made it difficult to obtain theſe advantages in a degree adequate to the large ſums expended: that not only the right which a poor family has, of living at laſt at the expence of the pariſh, encouraged careleſs idleneſs; but alſo that the annual rotation of overſeers, the want of uniform ſyſtem in the diſtribution of different kinds of ſupport, and of a general plan for making them concur in promoting the morality,

rality, and conſequently the happineſs of the ſupported claſs, required ſome alteration in the management of the immenſe ſupplies allowed by that generous country to the wants of her poor *.

SHREWSBURY and Glaſgow † have ſhewn what advantages may be obtained, even by a partial deviation from the plans uſually followed in both parts of the iſland. The ſimilarity of the principles they had adopted, with thoſe to which we in Hamburgh

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* The poor-rates are allowed to amount to two millions and a half Sterling. It is certainly under the truth, to ſtate at a million more the ſums expended through the Iſland, in Hoſpitals of all kinds, and in Workhouſes: if to this are added thoſe large ſums diſtributed annually by the beneficence of the Noblemen and Gentlemen in their country reſidences, numberleſs ſubſcriptions for immediate relief, &c. I make no doubt, that the ſum of Britiſh charities amounts to near five millions a-year. This is certainly too much. Suppoſing the extravagant proportion of one man in ten wanting ſupport; in a population of nine millions, L.5 Sterling would fall to the ſhare of each pauper, out of which number undoubtedly one fourth-part is able to perform ſome work, and the half capable of doing a good deal towards earning their ſubſiſtence.

† *Vid.* Mr Wood's Account of the Shrewſbury Houſe of Induſtry, 1792—Dr Porteous's Letter on the Management of the Poor-funds in Glaſgow.

owe our ſucceſs, was ſtriking, and induced you to deſire me to give you a more circumſtantial account of our inſtitutions.

It is certainly a duty in me, to give you back the little I can give, for the much I have received. The reaſon why I do not think it unworthy of your notice is, that it is not an ideal ſcheme, ſo eaſily formed by a warm heart and a lively fancy; but a real experiment, tried for theſe ſix years paſt, in a population of one hundred and ten thouſand inhabitants, who have the misfortune to feed about ſeven thouſand poor, beſides two thouſand five hundred more in their different hoſpitals. Give me leave, before I proceed, to premiſe a few general ideas, of which the following ſheets will contain the application.

Nature ſeems to have deſtined all her children for a ſtate of continual exertion; and their perfectibility perhaps depends on the unceaſing exerciſe of their powers for ends never completely attainable. Theſe objects increaſe in number with the more enlarged ſphere of our ideas. In

the moſt numerous claſſes of men, bodily wants are the main object of their toil, and they ſtruggle only to preſerve life. In this conteſt with neceſſity, all are not equally ſucceſsful, not equally attentive, aſſiduous, ſober, ſaving, orderly, honeſt, and prudent.

We generally blame them for it, as if thoſe qualities were ſo very common in the higher claſſes, and as if corruption did not always ſpread from the higher to the lower orders.

But among theſe poor there are not only victims of incapacity, folly, and vice, to whom public juſtice owes inſtruction and correction: I am afraid that by far the greateſt number of poor in Europe is of a very different deſcription.

Through a concurrence of numerous circumſtances, the price of labour and of the neceſſaries of life is in a very unfavourable proportion for the poor in moſt countries of Europe.

A man who lives by ſuch labour as requires nothing but bodily ſtrength, has ſtill a right to expect ſuch wages as may enable him to live comfortably; this, in Britain, is to live in dry and healthy lodgings, eat ſound proviſions, ſufficient to ſupport his labour, to be ſufficiently covered againſt the inclemency of the weather, and to appear with a certain cleanlineſs on Sundays; to rear his children decently, and lay by ſomething to live upon when age has deprived him of his ſtrength. This is indeed the ſituation of the labouring poor in all new ſocieties of men: there he earns even beyond this, till augmenting population lowers the price of labour, and raiſes the neceſſaries of life. Then hard labour procures him no more than a ſmall pittance, upon which he barely lives,—little for comfort, leſs for the education of his children, and nothing to depend upon in thoſe times when labour is wanting, when ſickneſs confines him, or a rigorous ſeaſon requires more food, more cloathing, more firing, at the very time when labour is ſcarce: then he ſells or pawns his bed, his tools, his every thing, till deſpair of his ſituation takes from him ſobriety, order, aſſiduity, and œcono-

my: He firſt gets into drunkenneſs by his miſery, and, by a fatal circle, is miſerable for ever by the habit of drinking. Sloth, beggary, and all the train of vices that attend them, deſtroy completely his induſtry; and if this ſituation has laſted for ſome time, he is irrecoverably loſt to order and regularity.

In the ſouth of Europe, where the climate is mild, men wanting but little food, leſs cloathing, and hardly any ſhed, numbers live, in that ſtate, the life of a ſavage in the midſt of civilization, reconciled to it by habits of ſecurity and independence, and by the indulgence of libertiniſm and idleneſs: Thouſands throng at the gates of the monaſteries in Spain for ſome ſoup, which they receive as a tribute. In Naples forty thouſand lazzaroni are dreaded by deſpotiſm itſelf.

In thoſe countries adultery and proſtitution are common, the ſources of life are tainted by dreadful diſeaſe, ſpies are eaſily obtained, and aſſaſſinations are cheap.

In northern latitudes, where more food, more cloathing, and where *a houſe* are wanted, the effects of miſery are more ſeverely felt. Many, many fall a ſlow ſacrifice to chill penury, and ſtarve for months and years. But here the remedy is much eaſier. Pity prompts to relieve obvious diſtreſſes, and the ſharpneſs of want urges men to its antidote, labour.——In repairing, however, thoſe evils, which ſociety did not, or could not prevent, it ought to be careful not to counteract the wiſe purpoſes of nature, nor to do more than to give the poor a fair chance to work for themſelves. The preſent diſtreſs muſt be relieved, the ſick and the aged provided for; but the children muſt be inſtructed; and *labour*, not alms, offered to thoſe who have ſome ability to work, however ſmall that ability may be.

In all the weſt of Europe, there is hardly a country where the ſums which public and private benevolence beſtows upon the poor, are not more than adequate to theſe purpoſes; but miſmanagement has employed them, with very few exceptions, as a

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reward for ſloth, idleneſs, impudence, untruth, has reared new generations of poor wretches, brought up to a life of diſguſting profligacy.

UNTHINKING pity has raſhly ſtopped that natural courſe of things, by which want leads to labour, labour to comfort, the knowledge of comfort to induſtry, and to all thoſe virtues, by which the toiling multitude ſo incalculably adds to the ſtrength and happineſs of a country: And while it neglects that reſpectable poverty which ſhrinks from public ſight, it encourages, by profuſe and indiſcriminate charities, all thoſe abominable arts which make beggary a better trade than a workſhop.

THE greatneſs of the evil muſt at laſt carry a remedy along with it. It was intolerable in Hamburgh: when the public, diſpoſed by ſome ſpeculative diſcuſſions on the ſubject, and encouraged by ſome private ſucceſsful exertions, reſolved to make it the object of their ſerious conſideration. They largely contributed the money that was requiſite;

quiſite; and, what was a ſtill greater ſacrifice, many of them gave their *perſonal* aſſiſtance in guiding the benevolence of their fellow-citizens into a proper channel. *Two hundred of our moſt reſpectable inhabitants* have been thus employed for the laſt ſeven years; and, during that period, hardly a beggar has been ſeen in Hamburgh.

THE following general account, will, I flatter myſelf, ſhow, that not only we did a great deal towards the actual relief of our poor, but that we have gained already ſome ſteps towards the more deſirable, yet but ſlowly attainable end, of preventing ſome of the cauſes of poverty.

As a ſtill more minute detail, however, may be deſirable for thoſe who actually engage in ſuch an undertaking, I muſt refer to a volume of Laws and By-laws, printed in Hamburgh, 1788; and to a volume containing ſixteen Reports, given ſucceſſively to the public from 1788 to 1794. They are depoſited, along with all other papers concerning this eſtabliſhment, with Mr Creech at Edinburgh, who will

will be ſo good as to communicate them to any of thoſe to whom this Letter is addreſſed.

To the general cauſes of poverty, we have to add, in Hamburgh, the inclemency of our winters; the fluctuation of ſeveral branches of trade on which the poor depend for their ſubſiſtence; the number of people attracted out of the poorer adjacent countries, by the expectation, often diſappointed, of finding employment or ſupport in a large commercial town, whoſe inhabitants have ever deſerved the reputation of generous benevolence; and laſtly, the extravagant cheapneſs and number of female ſervants, whoſe wages on an average do not exceed L. 2, and whoſe number is computed to be near fifteen thouſand.

I am ſorry to add, that meat and bread pay from 15 to 25 per cent. and beer ſeveral taxes exceeding 60 per cent.

It is clear, from the firſt of theſe two laſt circum-

 ſtances,

ſtances, that a number of women muſt remain unprovided for, when their age renders them unfit for ſervice: From the ſecond, that this exciſe being limited within the walls of the town, our Holſatian and Hanoverian neighbours have a great advantage in carrying on manufactures in competition with our poor.

Some years previous to 1788, a ſociety had united for giving relief to the indigent ſick. Another ſociety had procured flax and ſpinning-wheels, eſtabliſhed a ſpinning ſchool, and given work to all thoſe who choſe to work: their number yet was comparatively ſmall.

Some other humane gentlemen made perſonal viſits among the poor, and, by giving their hiſtory to the public, awakened its attention to the ſufferings of this numerous claſs, ſhewing, at the ſame time, the neceſſity of a general meaſure.

I lay ſome ſtreſs upon theſe preliminary eſſays; partly from my conviction, that the ſucceſs of ſuch

ſuch an undertaking depends wholly on the degree in which the public at large is ſatisfied of its neceſſity ; and partly, becauſe I think that no man is entitled to recommend the execution of any important plan, till it has been already tried upon a ſmaller ſcale, and till its parts are in ſome meaſure organized for immediate uſe.

THE magiſtrates took up the buſineſs with a zeal adequate to its importance : the outlines of a plan were agreed upon ; it was decided, that ſuch revenues as had till then been expended in alms by the ſeveral churchwardens, and thoſe whoſe adminiſtration had been connected with the workhouſe, ſhould be united, under one adminiſtration, with thoſe ſums that could be collected from private benevolence.

THE repreſentatives of the citizens went round through all the houſes in the different pariſhes to ſolicit annual ſubſcriptions. Every inhabitant in rotation went round weekly, collecting among his neighbours ; and the moſt reſpectable of our inhabitants made it a point to collect in perſon.

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THE town, after an average calculation of the numbers of poor in the ſeveral parts, was divided into ſixty diſtricts, containing each a nearly equal number of poor.

To each diſtrict, three citizens were choſen for three years; and the number of wealthy and reſpectable men who offered themſelves for the ſevere taſk they were to undergo, will for ever furniſh a bright page in the annals of civic virtue in Hamburgh.

FIVE ſenators preſided at the board of a committee, compoſed of ten members (whom I ſhall call *Directors*), and who were choſen for life.

IN their meetings to which (analogous to the organization of thoſe boards by which public buſineſs is conducted at Hamburgh) ſeveral other members of the commonwealth were added for the moſt important deciſions, the whole of the plan was, during ſix months, fully prepared for execution.

FOR

For the uſe of the above named 180 gentlemen, whom I ſhall call *Overſeers*, very ample inſtructions were publiſhed.

Actual relief was *the firſt object*; for we all were convinced of the barbarity of preventing beggary, when proviſion for real want is not previouſly prepared; but at the very moment that this proviſion was ſecured, meaſures were taken, to prevent any man from receiving a ſhilling which he could have been able to earn for himſelf.

This is the baſis of every ſolid proviſion for the poor: with it every eſtabliſhment muſt ſtand or fall, become the bleſſing or the bane of the lower claſſes of ſociety.

Our overſeers got printed interrogatories which they were to propoſe to each poor family. The anſwers were written upon the white column of the page, and verified by a perſonal viſitation, and the evidence of their neighbours.

MANY queries were calculated for knowing the average earning of each member of the family; but this was not a point eaſily ſettled.

FEW anſwers were ſincere; and it being the intereſt of the poor to make their capacity for work appear ſmall, all the tricks were employed which the habits of beggary had rendered but too familiar. The ſtate of health was determined by a viſit from a phyſician and a ſurgeon.

WE now began to make an exact calculation of what each pauper wanted for bare ſubſiſtence: we went down as far as 2 s. a-week; but in the courſe of our inveſtigation about the earnings of 3500 families, we were aſtoniſhed to find, that we were ſtill above that ſum with which a conſiderable part of our poor could make a ſhift to live.

IT was our determined principle, to reduce this ſupport lower than what any induſtrious man or woman in ſuch circumſtances could earn: For if

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the manner in which relief is given is not a ſpur to induſtry, it becomes undoubtedly a premium to ſloth and profligacy.

VERY little was ſtill gained; for the poor might even with the bare pittance remain idle, or they might receive this ſupport very undeſervedly, if, in the mean time, a more lucrative employment had offered; the want of which was the cauſe or the pretext of their claims.

AT this period of the buſineſs, that private ſociety, which had ſucceſsfully eſtabliſhed a flax-yarn ſpinning manufacture, gave it over to our inſtitution; the ſtock, the organization of the whole, the very able teachers and officers, and all the experience acquired in ſeveral years, along with it.

SIX ſevenths of our poor being women and children, we pitched upon this kind of work, becauſe,

1. The material is cheap;
2. The ſale always ſure;
3. No nice workmanſhip is required;

4. It is eaſily learnt, and of uſe at all times to the inſtructed poor;

5. It can be done by weak and robuſt, by old and young people, with a difference in the produce of labour proportionate to their capacity for work;

6. Becauſe the work can be exactly aſcertained by *meaſure*, and by ſeeing a woman ſpin an hour, it is perfectly eaſy to ſay what ſhe is capable of doing in a day.

A moſt eſſential point was, not to pay the ſpinning by the weight, as there is always a great deal arbitrary in valuing the ſpinning, but *by meaſure*. We ſold the clean flax to the poor at a certain low price, and bought a certain meaſure of yarn again from them at a high price: Thus, to whatever fineneſs the yarn was ſpun, it was the profit of the poor. This price was 30 per cent. above the uſual ſpinning price; ſo that we were ſure that *all the yarn* would be brought into the office we eſtabliſhed for that purpoſe. Every pauper brought his book continually with him, wherein the pieces delivered were noted: Thus he had always

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with him a certificate of his induſtry, and we a continual average of the ſtate of induſtry of our poor. But this eſtabliſhment procured us many ſtill more eſſential advantages;—we could now ſafely offer relief to all ſorts of poor, becauſe we had it now in our power to make them *comply with the only condition required, that they ſhould uſe towards their ſupport all the exertions they ſtill were capable of.* Accordingly the overſeers went thro' their diſtricts, and aſked, in all ſuch manſions as could be ſuppoſed to harbour want, if the inhabitants ſtood in need of ſupport. The queſtion to all ſuch poor as wiſhed for relief, and were able to ſpin, was, Whether they did earn by their work 1 s. 6 d a-week? for experience had taught us, that many poor live upon that ſum; and we knew enough of our poor to ſuppoſe, that 1 s. 6 d. avowed earning was equal to ſomething more.

If the anſwer was affirmative, the pauper ſtood not in need of *weekly aſſiſtance.*

If it was negative, we gave him work, which, by being paid 30 per cent above its value, af-

forded him 1 s. 6 d. a-week eaſily, if he was even an indifferent hand. The far more frequent caſes were partial inability by age, or weakneſs, or want of ſkill. For poor of the latter deſcription a ſchool was opened, and in three months time the buſineſs was eaſily learnt. During that time, the pauper got firſt 2 s. a-week, and every week afterwards 2 d. leſs, till in the twelfth week he got nothing at all but his earnings, and was diſmiſſed, with a wheel and a pound of flax gratis.

THE quantity of work which diſabled poor were capable of doing in a week, was eaſily and accurately aſcertained by a week's trial in the ſpinning-ſchool. The reſult was produced weekly before appointed members of the committee, and the ſum which the poor could earn, was noted down in their ſmall books. The overſeer was directed to pay them weekly what their earnings fell ſhort of 1 s. 6 d. in every ſuch week when it appeared from their books, that they had earned to the known extent of their abilities.

FROM that moment, applications became leſs frequent;

frequent ; and we had an infallible ſtandard for diſtinguiſhing real want : for whenever the pauper, if in health, (if not, he was peculiarly provided for), had not earned what he could, then he had either been lazy, or had found more lucrative work ; in either caſe, he was not entitled to a relief for that week, whatever he might be for the following.

This has conſtantly held good during theſe ſix years ; and whenever, by ſome relaxation of regularity on the part of the overſeers, the ſum of the relief has been in ſome years larger, we always found, that the thermometer of induſtry had been lower, viz. leſs yarn ſpun ; and that whenever, as in the ſummer 1792, the principle was enforced, again the induſtry increaſed accordingly.

I have been particularly minute here, as I am convinced, that it is to this meaſure *alone* we owe our ſucceſs.

It is obvious, why it was neceſſary to chuſe but *one* kind of work, becauſe in this way only the

the different degrees of induſtry in the different poor could be compared; and why *ſuch* a kind of work was choſen, as could leave to no under officer the ſmalleſt arbitrary power: A kind of work, laſtly, where it was impoſſible to be cheated either by the poor, the ſeller, the buyer, or the ſervant.

THIS gave a *pivot* to the whole ſuperſtructure, and a ſimplicity to our complicated machine, without which I do not think it could have ſtood one year.

THIS ſimplicity loſt very little by our employing the men and boys in making rope-yarn, picking oakum, or cleaning the ſtreets and mending the roads at 4d. a-day. All this work was calculated upon the ſame principle.

BUT want of employment for poor in tolerable health is but one ſource of miſery; old age, and incurable diſeaſes, ſickneſs, and the difficulty of ſupporting a numerous family, were evils which alſo called for aſſiſtance.

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For the firſt, we provided an hoſpital; and, in ſome caſes, gave to individuals the money which the boarding in the hoſpital would have amounted to.

Five Phyſicians, five Surgeons, and as many Midwives were appointed, one for each twelve diſtricts; who, upon the requeſt of the overſeer, (a requeſt which he was bound to make whenever applied to), went immediately to the lodgings of the patient, if he or ſhe was not able to appear at the appointed hour of the day at the phyſician's or ſurgeon's houſe. Theſe were obliged to make an immediate report, and to note down in a book, kept at the houſe of the directors of theſe twelve diſtricts, how far the cure was advanced, and the moment when the patient was able to work again. Till that moment, the phyſician preſcribed, not only the diet, which was got, according to previous contracts, from the *traiteurs* of that quarter of the town, and the medicines, which were made up at very low prices after a *pharmacopœia pauperum* which we had carefully reviſed; but he informed the overſeer of what money

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he thought neceſſary for ſupplying the want of labour, and the extraordinary expences. This made a particular article of ſupport, under the name of *ſick-money*, which was given with the greater liberality, that no bad effects could poſſibly ariſe from indulging here thoſe feelings, which it is the hardeſt taſk of every overſeer to reſtrain.

A *numerous family* is too heavy a burden, not only for poor reduced to the loweſt earnings, but even for many an induſtrious couple in a better way of employment; too heavy, in all caſes, upon widows.

Two ways offered to provide for them; the one, to take ſuch children into an hoſpital; the other, to give to the mother an allowance in money.

We were very averſe to the firſt, and the poor mothers would have been ſtill more ſo. May all the favourers of thoſe houſes, *ſuch as they are*, ſeriouſly reflect, if the advantages they offer can compenſate

compenſate for the education of the heart which nature yields in thoſe huts of poverty, where both parties become ſo neceſſary to each other, and where heroic exertions of parental and filial piety are not ſeldom become habitual. Would the humane and philoſophical overſeer look through the rags and the filth of pale miſery, calculate the ſacrifices daily made there in many families, and amongſt neighbours, and enjoy the rapture with which a mother embraces her ſon, whom ſhe ſees ſwallow that crumb of bread ſhe refuſed to her own wants; the annals of the poor might reconcile him to human nature, when diſguſted with the liſt of crimes which blacken the page of hiſtory.

On the other hand, it is but too true, that miſery and drunkenneſs, particularly in the male poor, lead to the neglect of their unhappy children: nor can it be doubted, that in this manner, many fall victims to wretchedneſs and immorality.

Wherever children under ſix years were in this unhappy ſituation, we intended to board them in the houſes of the better ſort of poor; and many

a good motherly woman we found, who became an excellent nurſe.

In other caſes, we allowed the mother from ſix to twelve pence a-week for each child; and we are now buſy in preparing in every pariſh a warm room, and bread, milk, and potatoes in plenty, where ſuch parents as go out to work may depoſit their children during the day, and thus prevent any obſtacle to their own induſtry, or to that of their elder children.

We determined to oblige them to ſend all their children from ſix to ſixteen to ſchool, in which they ſhall work two thirds of the time, and the remainder of it be inſtructed in reading, writing, caſting accounts, religion, and church-muſic.

We determined, and this is the ſecond hinge upon which the inſtitution turns, *That to no family any relief ſhould be allowed for a child paſt ſix years; but that this child, being ſent to ſchool, ſhould receive, not only the payment of his work, but alſo an allowance, in the compound ratio of his attendance at ſchool,*

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his behaviour, and his application to work; which amounted to an average of twelve or eighteen pence a-week, excluſive of other premiums.

By this meaſure the number of children, far from being a burden, became a great convenience; for the greater the number of individuals meſſing together at a certain rate, the better their fare, and the cheaper.

By theſe means we as effectually excluded thoſe parents who did not wiſh to ſend their children to ſchool, as we had excluded thoſe that did not chuſe to work; and children became accuſtomed to look from their infancy upon the means of ſubſiſtence, as the recompence of labour, or at leaſt of exertion.

How this was modified, and what other views were obtained by it, will appear hereafter. I wiſh only to ſtate the principle here.

In the above proportion of 2s. a-week, an allowance was made for lodging; but as this is paid

every ſix months, and the pauper receives his allowance weekly, it ſeemed to us to require more than common fortitude in a perſon thus circumſtanced, to refuſe to himſelf the much-wanted comfort which the 4d. a-week he ought to lay aſide for the houſe-rent of his family could have procured him, were it continually in his reach; he would, of courſe, run in debt, and become ruined again.

We reduced, therefore, twenty-four pence to twenty pence, and paid his rent to the landlord; and thus we not only got him out of debt, but procured him a warmer and more comfortable lodging than what otherwiſe he could have had a right to expect.

In the mean time, while we were employed in eſtabliſhing ſchools for five or ſix hundred grown poor, and ſchools for about a thouſand children, and in organizing our medical eſtabliſhment, the overſeers had prepared for the Board, as the reſult of their enquiries, a complete liſt of the poor, and the neceſſary details with reſpect to each of them.

We knew now all the poor, and having provided means for their relief, we announced to the public, in October 1788, that from that moment no deſerving poor perſon could, nor would remain unnoticed. We had liſts printed, diſtributed, and annexed to our almanacks, where the names of the ſtreets which had fallen to the lot of each overſeer were enumerated, ſo that no pauper could plead ignorance of the place where to apply, nor any man in Hamburgh give more effectual aſſiſtance to the poor, than in directing them to the proper places.

We diſtributed inſtructions by thouſands among the poor, about the means to procure and to employ the obtained relief.

We entreated the public to inform the directors, if any pauper had not been duly attended to; and I muſt add, to my infinite ſatisfaction, that I know of no fact, during ſix years, where this neglect has been proved.

Of courſe, all giving of alms ceaſed, the *only* effectual way to extirpate beggary. The very wiſe

wiſe law, which fined in L. 2 every man who gave charity in the ſtreets, or at the doors, was ſcarcely found to be neceſſary.

To ſecure the proper execution of ſo complicated a plan was rather difficult; but we have been ſo fortunate, that, ſmall variations excepted, the machine has gone on theſe ſeven years with much leſs *friction* than could reaſonably have been expected.

THIS makes it worth while to enter here into ſome further details.

THE three overſeers appropriated to each diſtrict, after viſiting and examining the poor, aſcertaining the number of their children, and informing themſelves, by the report of the phyſician, of their ability to work, determined (agreeable to the rules above mentioned,)

1. Whether any weekly relief was to be allowed, or if only work was to be given.

2. Whether bedding or cloathing was to be bought, goods pawned to be releaſed, or old debts to be extinguiſhed.

3. Whether ſick or ſchool tickets were wanted.

At the ſame time they communicated to the Board what they could collect about the morals of the pauper, and *their* opinions concerning his circumſtances.

With regard to the firſt point, I muſt beg leave to make the following obſervations.

The ſituation of our poor in ſummer and winter is totally different. Every kind of manufactures and garden-work goes on during the former ſeaſon, at the ſame time that proviſions are plentiful, and extremely cheap.

During the winter moſt kinds of labour ceaſe, proviſions get dearer and ſcarcer, and fuel and warm cloathing are new wants.

It was abſolutely neceſſary to make different allowances; and accordingly we adapted our interrogatories to that period, in ſuch a manner, as to aſcertain every change of circumſtances materially influencing

influencing the relation of the poor to the *inſtitution*. The new ſupport was regulated agreeably to the information we received, and amounted generally from four to eight pence more in winter than in ſummer. During the moſt ſevere winter-weeks, four pence was ſtill added, if extraordinary colds happened. The weekly relief was fixed never to be above twenty-four pence, in whatever manner it was paid. We did not allow a larger ſum, whatever might have been the former ſituation of the poor. This may ſeem hard in ſome inſtances; but we were convinced, that if the leaſt door was opened to inequality of diſtribution, the bad conſequences would have been incalculable in an *inſtitution* of this magnitude; and where all we could do by the ſtricteſt rules, was to make 180 gentlemen act in every quarter of the town in conformity to the ſame principles. We thought further, that if thoſe poor had formerly been in a more reſpectable ſituation, they would be worthy objects of private benevolence, of which no public *inſtitution* ought to ſuperſede the exertions.

2. We found the poor deſtitute of every thing;

thing; therefore not only cloathing and bedding were neceſſary, but their things being pawned, or their being in debt, made it as neceſſary to get theſe things back again, and to ſettle their debts. The only effectual way to prevent their pawning them again, was to mark them indelibly as the property of the *inſtitution*, which the pauper was to hold only as long as he behaved well.

3. I have already ſaid, that a ſick-ticket excepted a pauper from the common rules as long as it was continued, and that a ſchool-ticket for a child was conſidered as 12 d. given weekly to the parent.

THE propoſals of the overſeers about the weekly allowance of the poor, were brought to one of the members of the committee, each of them ſuperintending ſix of thoſe diſtricts. He was advocate for the *inſtitution*, as the overſeers were thoſe of the poor; and all caſes being much ſimplified, they eaſily agreed.

THE director made his report to the Board with

reſpect to each diſtrict ſeparately, and after that the reſolution ſettled for the next ſix months was wrote down upon the ſame ſheet of paper which contained all the queries made to the pauper, together with his anſwers, which paper always remained at the overſeer's after its contents had been brought into tables in the director's book, containing all the poor of ſix diſtricts, and their weekly relief. He received weekly from the overſeer the account of what was wanted for this *fixed* ſupport, for occaſional relief to ſick, for accidents, and for diſcretionary aſſiſtance to ſuch poor whoſe caſe could not yet be inveſtigated.

THIS account of the overſeers was certified by the director, and then ſent to the treaſurer for payment.

THE treaſurer makes his balance every week, and preſents it every month to the committee, when the ten directors preſent theirs, which check each other in ſuch a manner, as to make any error impoſſible.

Our books are closed every Saturday; and out of the very numerous payments made by the treasurer in a year, the smallest could be found out in a quarter of an hour.

Very soon we found the number of ten directors too small; five others were added, (they are always taken out of the overseers), who constitute a committee,

for the manufactures,
for the schools,
for the procuring of cloaths, and
for the police of the poor:

All of them have several officers, keep their accounts separate, and once a-month give them to the treasurer and to the board.

The division of every kind of expences is so scrupulously kept, that no particular branch could be devised, of which the account in certain given periods could not be immediately made out.

After several repeated trials, we had found that there was great waste in leaving the distribu-

tion of cloathing to the overſeers alone; partly becauſe they paid too dear by creating a competition of many buyers, partly by giving too eaſily, having no check.

THIS committee, therefore, bought the cloth, and had the ſhirts and cloaths made by ſome of the poor, employing this kind of work at the ſame time as a means of inſtruction for their children in the ſchools. The pauper who ſtood in need of cloathing preſented to the committee a recommendation ſigned by the overſeer and the director, and then got the cloaths.

CHILDREN get ſhirts and cloaths only through the committee ſuperintending the ſchools, according to their behaviour.

4. Hamburgh is unfortunately ſituated in this reſpect, that, from all the poor countries ſurrounding, numbers flock in, and among them many foreign poor. It was eſtabliſhed, that three years reſidence ſhould intitle to relief, allowance at the ſame time being made for accidents, illneſs, or childbed,

childbed, which in all caſes were thought proper objects of charity. A hoſpitium was opened for foreign poor, where they could live three days, after which they were forwarded with a viaticum. At the ſame time, it was prohibited to receive a ſtranger, without acquainting the magiſtrate or the overſeer, under the penalty to bear alone the expence of maintaining the man, if he ſhould become an object of charity within three years.

Upon theſe principles we began our inſtitution in October 1788. We had before-hand given to the public the moſt minute detail of our views, and of the obſtacles we met with, requeſting its advice at the ſame time that we ſolicited its ſupport. We continued to give two reports yearly; one containing the hiſtory of the *inſtitution* during the preceding year, about the time of the new ſubſcription; the ſecond containing the yearly balance and an explanatory account. The originals were left open for inſpection of the public at large.

A ſhort extract of theſe reports will beſt ſhew the reſult of our endeavours. I ſh ll arrange them according to the objects of our expences, adding

ſome

ſome neceſſary illuſtrations, taking only the firſt and the laſt year, unleſs ſome obſervations may occur on the expence of ſome particular years. I refer, at the ſame time, to the table annexed, for the general compariſon of the expences of the ſeveral years.

1. We found 3903 families, making 7391 individuals, $\frac{4}{7}$ women, $\frac{2}{7}$ children, $\frac{1}{7}$ men, in the higheſt want of immediate relief. A great part of them had not ſeen a bed for many years; and the miſery of thoſe who were not yet turned beggars, exceeds all deſcription.

THE ſum paid them in weekly allowance during the firſt eight months, being on an average of twelve pence a-week for each family, was, L. 6729 0 0

During the ſecond year,	8297	0	0
Third year,	9318	0	0
Average of the firſt $2\frac{2}{3}$ years,	L. 9129	0	0
The houſe-rent allowed to the poor was,	2100	0	0
	L. 11229	0	0

THE

The firſt cloathing of this alarming number of poor would indeed have exceeded even the powerful ſupport the inſtitution enjoyed, had not our ladies largely contributed ready-made ſhirts and cloathing, as ſoon as they knew how much they were wanted. Still this expence was, on the average of the firſt three years, L. 977. It may not be uninſtructive to add, that we tried in the firſt year to buy potatoes and fuel for the poor, and diſtribute it amongſt them at the firſt coſt: But experience ſhewed us, what afterwards I have ſeen confirmed every where,

1. That it is impoſſible to prevent waſte, if not robbery.

2. That the poor have a diſlike to what you oblige them to buy.

3. That giving large portions, you encourage the practice of ſelling it out again.

4. That when ſmall portions are given, the loſs of time for fetching them, which is conſiderable when ſuch a number muſt be provided, makes it expenſive to every induſtrious pauper, even if he was to get them for nothing.

5. That the neceſſary houſing and ſtoring, together

gether with the number of neceſſary officers, make it very expenſive to the inſtitution.

We found it cheaper, and the poor found it more convenient, to receive, inſtead of the extraordinary ſupply, four pence a-week, and to buy for themſelves. Some overſeers took the trouble to provide it for fifteen or twenty families under their care: where this was done, the poor got it beſt and cheapeſt.

A different plan may do, where the community is very ſmall, or where the poor are not taught to know the value of their time.

The depth of miſery in which we found our poor, ſubjected us to another unexpected expence. The itch was become ſo general, and had ſo perfectly infected the workhouſe to which ſome poor were always ſent for correction, that neither there nor in the narrow lanes and alleys, where the poor live crowded together, the cure was poſſible. We were obliged to eſtabliſh a temporary lazzaretto out of town, where we ſent the moſt

moſt infected, and had in three years made it ſuperfluous. This has yet occaſioned an additional expence of L. 438, in each of the firſt three years.

A very heavy expence was incurred by the purchaſe of ſpinning wheels and other tools, and by the eſtabliſhment and maintenance of a ſchool, where, for the firſt years, five hundred poor at a time were taught to ſpin: the indemnification for their loſs of time during learning, was paid them, as well as the loſs upon their work. The ſum of theſe expences amounted to L. 1175 a-year. But after three years, two thouſand poor, who at the time they entered the ſchool could do nothing at all, did earn from eight pence to twenty pence a-week, at ſuch time and at ſuch hours as were formerly quite loſt to them; upwards of three thouſand wheels were in their hands, and the din of induſtry was heard, where ſloth or riot had inhabited before.

Our ſchools, which at the time of their eſtabliſhment were a collection of the moſt abandoned and profligate children, moſt of whom

had been uſed to beg, required a great length of time before they could do even as much as to give to theſe unhappy creatures the habit of fixing their attention upon any work, not to ſpeak of inſtruction. Gentle means and perſeverance got at laſt the better of great part of the vices that grow in children who are trained up to begging.

Our *medical inſtitution* got ſooner to its perfection. I muſt refer to an excellent report on that ſubject, in the firſt volume of our yearly reports.

It is a fact, that in three years the number of ſick had been 12,969, whoſe cure had, including broth, &c. not coſt 3 s. 6 d. each.

It is evident how much we ſaved by not having a ſalaried apothecary, nor a particularly appropriated houſe.

We employed always ſome poor women as nurſes when the family could not attend the patient, and found them of very great uſe in fetch-

ing

ing the medicines, and reporting to the phyſician about the health of the patient.

With this ſlight addition, we thought that, a very few caſes excepted, the reſult of our experience was unfavourable to hoſpitals.

The patient is more comfortable in his own bed amongſt his family and his neighbours, gets into no habits of idleneſs, and employs uſefully the moments of his convaleſcence. The fact proves, that it is alſo the cheapeſt method.

Our expence at the end of three years amounted to - - - L. 44085 0 0

It had been annually increaſing; private charity ceaſing, all poor at laſt had recourſe to the means offered them: from a corrupted race, however, little good could be expected; and what education we had been able to give, could not yet have any ſenſible effect. It was ſtill the time of ſtruggle; but the public, who always knew perfectly all circumſtances, ſup-

Carried forward, L. 44085 0 0

Brought forward, L. 44085 0 0

ported us chearfully, notwithſtanding
the receipt of - - - 41596 0 0
in three years (Vid. Tab.) fell ———
ſhort of our expenditure by the
ſum of - - L. 2489 0 0

Desirous, on our ſide, to ſave for the public what we poſſibly could, we ſubjected again all our expences to a new ſcrutiny, of which the reſult is contained in the fourteenth report. It ſeemed that the overſeers had ſlackened a little in attending to the work of the poor. The committee for the manufactures had found, that in 1791 but half the uſual quantity of yarn had been ſpun; yet the allowances had rather been increaſed, without an augmentation of the poor. The rules were anew enforced in the beginning of ſummer, as the moſt proper ſeaſon; and at the approach of winter, all thoſe who needed aſſiſtance from want of work, inſtead of getting the uſual augmentation from the overſeer, were ſent to the committee, who either gave them work, or procured them employment from tradeſmen and manufacturers, with whom they had connected themſelves for that purpoſe,

purpoſe. This was in ſome reſpects expenſive, but became a very great ſaving, as it had the effect, that out of 276 poor who applied for an augmentation of allowance from want of work, only forty accepted of the work offered them. During that year, 3000 bundles of yarn more were ſpun, 300 children more went to ſchool, and the *inſtitution* ſaved L. 1250, which would have fallen to the ſhare of idleneſs, and which is nearly the amount of the greater earnings of the poor in that year.

I inſiſt upon thoſe facts, becauſe they prove, not only the wiſdom of a meaſure which makes the relief of the poor dependent on their induſtry, and obliges them to a kind of work, the produce of which is the undoubted meaſure of the exertions they employed; but becauſe they prove alſo the *neceſſity of enforcing this meaſure*, daily enfeebled by the cunning, and the obvious miſery of the lazy poor, operating on the ſenſibility of the overſeers. It is undoubtedly the moſt difficult part of their duty, to ſhut their ears to the cries of miſery, and leave thoſe to their fate who will not comply with the conditions under which they are to be relieved. We

have

have ſeen incredible inſtances of hardſhip ſuffered, rather than go to work, or ſend their children to ſchool. If, in ſingle inſtances, indulgence is ſhewn, where, according to the law, it ought not, then all is loſt: abuſe creeps in, and in a ſhort time this weekly allowance becomes a penſion, that ſuperſedes the neceſſity of working; then it becomes a matter of favour and protection, and the whole a ſyſtem of corruption;—worſe a thouſand times by being ſo ſyſtematized, than if no proviſion had been made, and if every thing had been truſted to chance, and to the exertions of private benevolence. Theſe premiums held out to vice, muſt of courſe increaſe the number of the idle and the profligate: and what muſt be the feelings of the honeſt induſtrious workman, who, with the utmoſt exertions of his ſtrength, hardly earns the bare neceſſaries of life, when, next to his door, Sloth ſits in undeſerved eaſe, and reaps where it has not ſown!

It is literally true, that where no man can periſh for want, many will be idle; and that the natural courſe of things in ninety-nine caſes out of a hundred, would have forced the wretch to labour,

labour, and perhaps ſecured him comfort, if Pity, like an unſkilful phyſician, had not ſtept in, and, by a palliative remedy, prevented the cure. I think then, that we may ſafely aſcribe that ſucceſs I am going to ſhow you in the account of the laſt year, to our ſteadineſs in adhering to this fundamental principle. It is from the beginning of 1792 we began to feel its good effect.

In 1793, the number of our poor families was reduced to 3234, to more than $\frac{1}{6}$ leſs than what they were at the time of the eſtabliſhment; the ſum of their allowance in money and houſe-rent, to L. 9678, which is L. 1422 leſs than the average of the firſt years.

Yet this difference is ſo little owing to an increaſe of mortality among the poor, that we have, on the contrary, witneſſed the moſt ſatisfactory effects, not only of our early aſſiſtance in ſickneſs, by attention, medicines, and a better diet; but what I think ſtill more, by the cleanlineſs and comfort of dreſs, warmer lodgings, and the prodigious influence induſtrious activity has upon the conſtitution. In the year 1790-91, the number

of

of new claimants was - 431
In 1792-93, only - 119

The reduction of this traffic of beggary, as ſoon as it was known, was ſo profitable to our city, that in the year 1792, only 126 vagrants were ſent out with a viaticum, when the number in 1791 had been 272.

Not only the number of ſick among our poor had decreaſed from 3710 ſucceſſively to 2672 in 1793, but the mortality among the ſick had diminiſhed in that ſurpriſing proportion :

in	1788-89, - -	7 per cent.
	1789-90, - -	6
	1790-91, - -	5
	1791-92, - -	4½

The private medical inſtitution that preceded ours had an average mortality of 11 per cent. May all good and humane men ſhare the heart-felt pleaſure with which I relate theſe facts!

THE better cloathing of the poor was now *moſtly confined to the children*, whoſe rags were now all changed to decent dreſs; yet the average expence of the laſt three years was not above L. 689 per annum.

THE

The ſchools for teaching ſpinning to the grown people were no longer neceſſary. 3354 ſpinning wheels had been diſtributed to ſuch as had proved themſelves able to ſpin. Several hundreds of theſe were conſtantly, and all of them occaſionally, employed in ſpinning, when a more lucrative employment was not to be found. The average of all expences attending the employment of the poor, during the laſt three years, including the loſs at the ſale of the manufactured goods, was L. 611 per annum. We calculated that, to procure to a pauper the means of earning, in the worſt caſe, five guineas a-year, had coſt us half a guinea.

I trace with pleaſure theſe progreſſive ſteps, by which our *inſtitution*, after having relieved the firſt wants of the poor, enabled us to apply a greater ſhare of our funds and of our attention to one of the moſt effectual means of preventing miſery,—*the better education of children.*

A plan had been laid down and agreed upon in 1788, which we now began to execute, but on

which many improvements remain to be made. It is contained in pag. 144. of the Reports.

THUS far we had, in 1794, been able to go.

WE had eſtabliſhed three kinds of ſchools, *one for ſuch children* as had no other employment. After the proper diviſions of ſexes and ages, they were again divided into claſſes, where their employment changed with their age: Spinning, knitting, weaving, and plain work, were taught them in the different claſſes of the ſchool of induſtry: but we took care to make the inſtruction in the ſchools of morality and religion, reading and writing, go hand in hand with the increaſe of their capacity for work; ſo that, at the age of ſixteen, we might with ſafety recommend them to places in decent families. We were ſo lucky as to put, in 1792 and 1793, about 260 girls and boys into ſervice, who a few years before were covered with rags and vermin, weakened in their conſtitution, and immerſed in vice. Moſt of them have turned out well. The boys went to ſea,

or

or to different trades. The number of children that in 1793 had been in the ſchools, was 2046.

We not only made a point to finiſh entirely the education of theſe children, but whenever they left ſervice again, we continued to offer them ſuch a temporary ſupport, as might diminiſh the danger of their relapſing from actual want, into vice and profligacy.

2. Other claſſes of inſtruction-ſchools were opened in the evening hours, for ſuch children as work in the day-time for manufacturers or for their parents, and who gain in that manner more than they can or ought to gain in our eſtabliſhment.

It is perhaps not out of place to obſerve here, that we were very anxious to ſettle at a very moderate ſum, what could be gained by the poor children, when employed in conſtant work that required no particular ſkill; as we were determined to pay their labour ſomething lower than the rates paid by the manufacturers.

THE prejudice to the individuals, and the detriment to induſtry, that muſt neceſſarily reſult from the ſmalleſt inattention to this point, is obvious.

3. We eſtabliſhed Sunday-ſchools for ſuch children as were employed through the whole week, and which many of thoſe girls continued to attend that had been brought into ſervice.

IN theſe ſchools, there were now upwards of 600 children, all of ſuch parents as received ſupport from the inſtitution, and whoſe decent appearance in the Sunday-ſchools was remarkably pleaſing.

THE average amount of the expence for the laſt three years, was L. 700 per annum.

THE whole of our expence for the year 1793-94 amounted to	L. 14773	0	0
Our revenues were -	16917	0	0
Hence an exceeding revenue of	L. 2144	0	0

IT

It is but juſtice to the beneficence of the citizens of Hamburgh to mention, that this increaſe is greatly owing to their contributing largely to put the revenue upon an equal footing with the neceſſary expenditure.

Our *inſtitution* has only two ſources of revenue, independent of public benevolence, and of the ſatisfaction of the public with the meaſures of its adminiſtration.

They are, a contribution levied upon the apparent fortunes, amounting to L. 2000 0 0

And $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the amount of goods ſold by public ſale, with $\frac{1}{4}$ of the brokerage of them. This, upon an average, is about - 2300 0 0

L. 4300 0 0

Thus the *inſtitution* is dependent for more than ten thouſand pounds on the annual charity of the public.

This,

THIS, *joined to the publicity of the accounts, is, I believe, the third cauſe of our ſucceſs.* It is this only that prevents all inſtitutions of this kind from becoming a job, the directors from being careleſs of the public approbation or cenſure, and the whole adminiſtration from falling into the hands of under officers, who afterwards know ſo well how to embroil the buſineſs, that no ſubſequent director ever is able to unravel the clue.

THIS at leaſt is the hiſtory of nearly all the workhouſes and of many hoſpitals in Europe.

IT may be worth while to remark, that in an inſtitution, where L. 14,000 are yearly received and paid in ſmall ſums, and where books of every deſcription are regularly kept; where the ſubſcriptions muſt be collected; and where, beſide perſonal attendance, numberleſs meſſages are neceſſary between the directors and the overſeers, the overſeer and the treaſurer, and the overſeer and the poor;—that all theſe details are managed and executed by eleven officers, whoſe ſalary does not exceed L. 400, and fifty poor, who get 1 s. per week,

week, perhaps, more than what the inſtitution would be obliged to allow them.

THE means by which the remainder of the ſums wanted and collected, are,

1. *A ſubſcription*, which, at an average, brought yearly - L. 5850 0 0
and ſince the ſecond year never varied L. 200.

2. *A weekly collection* through all the houſes of the town who had not ſubſcribed, - - - 1340 0 0

3. *Unſubſcribed donations.* This indeed is one of the moſt intereſting ſources of our income, in *reſpect to the feelings that occaſion them.* Some of them the expreſſions of gratitude of a merchant, who has either eſcaped ſome loſs, or gained ſome unexpected profit. Others a joint donation made by two diſputing parties, of the ſum about which they diſagreed. A conſiderable part, the produce of near 3000 poor-boxes, ———

Carried forward L. 7190 0 0

Brought forward,	L. 7190	0	0
kept in different families, in order that their children or their ſervants may have an opportunity of indulging their pity; and where, in the midſt of jovial conviviality, many a collection is made for the poor. They ſerve too in the counting-houſes of the merchants for collecting a trifle, when a bargain is concluded, or when at the end of the year large accounts are paid. And they are preſented to ſtrangers in the hotels, who thus enjoy the pleaſure of doing good, without being tormented by the aſpect of diſguſting miſery. This ſum amounts to an average of	1375	0	0
Legacies, which have yet only amounted to a yearly average of	200	0	0
Half of the money collected in the churches on Sundays, -	1050	0	0
Two extraordinary collections in the churches, the one intended to			
Carried forward,	L. 9815	0	0

Brought forward,	L. 9815	0	0
ſupply the cloathing, the other the extraordinary fuel for the poor,	1430	0	0
Annually contributed by public benevolence,	L. 11245	0	0

I would ſtop here, if I did not recollect many a converſation with ſeveral of the reſpectable men to whom this Letter is addreſſed, the reſult of which was, that relieving the preſent diſtreſs, though the firſt eſſential thing in providing for the poor, is by no means the moſt difficult: That the leſs eaſy taſk is, to diſtribute theſe ſupplies in ſuch a manner as may not, by encreaſing the number of the poor, leave real want unrelieved, and give encouragement to vice and idleneſs; and that, even after the attainment of this object, much remains to be done by the friends of humanity. An inveſtigation of the ſources of poverty, we often thought, might indicate the means of preventing the evil; and might ſuggeſt ſuch meaſures for ſupporting the falling, as would, in many caſes,

counteract thoſe combinations of circumſtances, which impoſe on a man the diſhonourable neceſſity of throwing himſelf on the charity of the public.

But I do not preſume to give my ideas, I only wiſh to ſtate facts.

Certain it is, that the extenſion of the benefits of the ſchools, and of the medical *inſtitution*, to thoſe not *yet* entitled to receive ſupport, may prevent many a family from ever being in want of it.

We aſcribe the diminution of the annual increaſe of our poor, partly to our having given medical aſſiſtance to 1135 perſons of that deſcription.

The eſtabliſhment of beneficent ſocieties, founded upon ſolid calculations, and under the direction of the *inſtitution*, might be a good ſubſtitute for that private economy ſo ſeldom to be met with among our poor: it might even be very good policy, to receive the ſums thus collected, and to allow to the beneficent ſocieties, not only more

than

than the legal, but even compound intereſt. The inſtitution, by ſacrificing a few hundred pounds yearly, certainly would encourage eſtabliſhments, that might in time ſave as many hundred families from the neceſſity of being a burden to the public charity.

A timely payment of houſe-rent, or releaſing of pawned goods, &c. might ſave many a family. But theſe charities, where much muſt be left to diſcretion, cannot make a part of the general ſyſtem: It muſt be referred to a committee, compoſed of gentlemen perfectly aware of the danger attending miſapplications of benevolence.

The multiplication of employments for the female part of the children, ſuch as hair-dreſſing, making of clothes, ſhoes, &c. and all poſſible eaſy work for the manufactures of the country, ought to be attended to.

A careful moral education of *all* the children, would undoubtedly be the moſt effectual way of promoting the happineſs of the riſing gene-

ration. Towards this desirable end, the establishment of *male and female seminaries* would be the first step. I think we are *far* back in this respect every where, but something less in Germany, than in any country I know of.

NURSING rooms, such as those mentioned above, would do a great deal towards the health of the infants, and the earnings of the mother and the elder children.

MAGDALEN houses, well conducted, would certainly be a palliative of a great moral disorder, whose sources are so deeply rooted in our manners, that a radical cure will only be the work of time, and the triumph of a happier generation.

WHEN once the history of the poor is well known, it will be seen, how large a proportion of the miseries of the lower orders arise from local errors and prejudices, from ignorance and want of advice. Surely it could not be thought unworthy of the leisure of any true philosopher, to point

out

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM

out thoſe prejudices, and give thoſe advices, in popular language, in the ſhape of an almanack, either gratis, or ſo cheap that it could be in the hands of every body.

As for our *priſons*,—who knows not, that the very place which ought to bring back the offender to induſtry and to virtue, is the ſchool of crimes! Who feels not for men whoſe only crime is poverty, when he ſees them crowded into the ſame workhouſes with ſhameleſs profligates,—*and into ſuch workhouſes!*

The incalculable harm cauſed by theſe circumſtances, may give us an idea of the good that might be produced; and ought to invigorate our earneſt reſolution to do every thing which our ſituation will permit us to do in ſo great and worthy a cauſe. Whenever any exertion ſucceeds, it is a moral diſcovery, which it is a crime to conceal; and wherever a man meets another in the intention of doing good, *there at leaſt* he may be ſure to ſhake the hand of a brother.

Edinburgh, the 1ſt of May 1795.

TABLE.

TABLE.

	Money distributed to the Poor.		House Rent.		Cloathing and Bedding,		Teaching the Grown Poor to Spin, and Loss upon the Produce of Labour.		Education of Children.		Expence attending the Police of the Poor.		Extraordinary Fuel allowed during severe Winters.	
	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.
From Nov. 1788 to 1st July 1789,	6728	16	981	12	1558	16	1390	7	466	4	142	2	619	0
1789-90,	8296	8	1980	8	426	9	1282	2	411	10	245	5	—	—
1790-91,	9317	5	2297	7	582	8	852	10	433	7	238	7	—	—
1791-92,	8862	9	2314	0	747	15	763	12	485	12	262	10	241	5
1792-93,	7524	12	2154	9	553	2	411	12	797	12	221	2	145	4
1793-94,	7590	14	2105	18	765	10	692	12	832	5	243	12	332	4

	Medical Establishment.		Boarding to the Hospitals and Bridewell.		To the Poor-Establishment in the Suburbs.		Printing and Binding.		Salaries, and sundry Expences.		Total.		Number of Families.
	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	L.	s.	
From Nov. 1788 to 1st July 1789,	437	15	9	9	23	0	339	0	504	9	13828	10	3903
1789-90,	650	12	240	0	55	16	71	15	380	16	14487	16	3742
1790-91,	796	16	285	12	208	8	149	0	370	0	15771	0	3764
1791-92,	773	12	342	12	237	10	148	2	433	5	15612	4	3640
1792-93,	686	12	430	8	237	10	85	14	377	2	13624	19	3219
1793-94,	733	8	643	2	300	0	73	10	470	16	14773	11	3234